

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, June 24, 2005

MPDC MOBILIZED TO HELP ENSURE A SAFE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION IN DC

The MPDC is mobilizing all sworn members of the Department to help ensure a safe July 4th celebration for residents and visitors in DC. The Department will have all available sworn members working on the Independence Day holiday, supported by key civilian personnel. This is being accomplished by adjusting days off and restricting members' leave. Some of the additional MPDC officers will be assigned in and around the National Mall to assist the US Park Police, the lead agency in the operation, with crowd and traffic control around the Capitol lawn concert and the fireworks display on the Mall. Additional officers will also be assigned to support regular neighborhood patrols, with special attention paid to communities expecting larger celebrations. The MPDC's Joint Operations Command Center, including the network of 14 Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras, will be activated on the morning of July 4, to help monitor activities in the downtown area.

- ① More information about Independence Day events in DC can be found at:

<http://www.washington.org/index.cfm?bInNavView=True&idContentType=441#fourth>

- ① For more information on the 4th of July celebration on the National Mall, visit:

<http://www.nps.gov/nama/events/july4/july4.htm>

- ① For details on the MPDC's CCTV system, including the locations of all 14 cameras, click on:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,541201,mpdcNav_GID,1545,mpdcNav_31748|.asp

SMOOTH OPERATOR CAMPAIGN TARGETS AGGRESSIVE DRIVING THIS SUMMER

The first days of summer mean more children playing outdoors, away from the protection of a school classroom, an influx of tourists crowding the sidewalks and construction activities ramp up and slowing down traffic. The hot days of summer often lead to hot-headed driving with a dramatic increase in aggressive driving, speeding injuries and fatalities during the summer months – especially July. Coupled with the fact that the DC metropolitan area and Baltimore are among the top 20 most congested regions in the country, the summer months can be a very dangerous time on the roads.

During these summer months, Smooth Operator is getting tough on speeding, which is almost always a factor in aggressive driving incidents. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), speeding is a factor in 31 percent of all fatal crashes, killing an average of 1,000 Americans every month.

The Smooth Operator campaign consists of four separate waves. The first wave from May 22-28, 2005 proved to be very successful with 55,189 citations and warnings written for various driving violations, including speeding, running red lights, and non-compliance with safety belt laws. The second wave of law enforcement is taking place right now. From June 19-25 more than 80 participating law enforcement agencies will be looking out for aggressive driving behaviors, including speeding, tailgating, running red light and stop signs, improper passing and other dangerous driving maneuvers. Last year alone, citations during four enforcement waves totaled more than 260,000 – a fourfold increase from the 62,000 issued in the initial year.

- ① Read the complete news release at

<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3240>

- ① For other traffic safety programs and resources in DC, visit:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548131,mpdcNav_GID,1547.asp

HAVE A FUN — AND SAFE — 4TH OF JULY: KNOW THE LAW ON FIREWORKS IN DC

Celebrating our nation's independence on the 4th of July is a time-honored tradition in DC and across the country. But it's also a time when serious injuries associated with illegal fireworks are more prevalent. Once again during this year's Independence Day holiday, the MPDC advises the public that DC law prohibits all firecrackers, as well as any fireworks that explode (including cherry bombs, salutes, Roman candles, floral shells, and artillery shells) and any fireworks that launch after being lit (such as bottle rockets, parachutes, buzz-bombs, pinwheels, helicopters, and jumping jacks). Fireworks that have a side fuse or that contain mercury, arsenic or other dangerous materials are also prohibited. Among the fireworks that are allowed in the District are small sparklers, fountains, torches and other novelty items.

REMINDER TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES: SUMMER CURFEW HOURS BEGIN JULY 1

The MPDC offers this reminder to young people and their families concerning DC's teen curfew: beginning Friday, July 1, and continuing through August 31, DC's curfew starts at 12:01 am, seven days a week. This is an hour later than the weeknight curfew during school months. For the months of July and August only, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 12:01 am, and continues until 6 am, every day of the week. During the other 10 months of the year, the curfew begins at 11 pm, Sunday through Thursday nights, and at 12:01 am on weekends. Under DC law, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within the District during curfew hours, unless they are involved in certain exempted activities. These include work, school, religious, civic or organized recreational activities, as well as the exercise of First Amendment rights. DC's curfew law applies to all young people who are in the District during curfew hours, regardless of whether they live inside or outside the city. During the first six months of 2005, the MPDC has processed approximately 1,200 curfew violators.

NEWS & NOTES

Forty Days of Increased Peace. From June 22-August 1, a series of free events, activities and services target towards youth and young adults will be offered as an alternative to violence. The program is offered by a unique partnership with churches, neighborhood-based organizations, and the Metropolitan Police Department. For a complete list of activities associated with this event, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/40days>.

Civilian Career Opportunity in the MPDC. The Department is currently looking to fill the position of Cellblock Supervisor. Details are available at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/civilianemploy>.

Street Closures this Weekend. The Caribbean Parade and Festival will take place on Georgia Avenue on June 25 and the National Capitol Barbecue Battle will run June 25-25 on Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. Get details at <http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=3238>.

- ① For detailed information on fireworks laws in DC, as well as useful links to fireworks safety tips, click on:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547662,mpdcNav_GID,1550,mpdcNav,|.asp

- ① The MPDC receives a large number of calls during the July 4th holiday. Here are some tips: for gunshots or fireworks that create an immediate public safety hazard, call 9-1-1 with a precise location and description of the incident; for other matters that do not pose an immediate public safety threat, call 3-1-1.

- ① Details at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547641,mpdcNav_GID,1554.asp

- ① For complete details on DC's curfew law, including sample exemptions and alternative resources for young people, go to:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547375,mpdcNav_GID,1549,mpdcNav,|.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 6/24/05
◆ 2005: 81	
◆ 2004: 86	
◆ % Change: -5.8%	
◆ Closure Rate: 54.3% (44 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 6/18/05
◆ Total: 952	
◆ Drugs: 165	
◆ Weapons: 19	
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 21	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 45	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 6/18/05
◆ Arrests: 56	
◆ Curfew Violations: 89	
◆ Truants: 3	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 6/22/05
◆ June: 85	
◆ 2005 Total: 1,160	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 6/24/05
◆ 2005: 20	
◆ 2004: 26	
◆ % Change: --23.1%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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